accompanying spouses and dependent children.

(b) Members of National Parliaments and their accompanying spouses and dependent children.

(c) Heads of National Academic Institutions and their accompanying spouses and dependent children.

Inclusion of other categories in the Schemes would be considered by the Council of Ministers at an appropriate time in light of the operation of the Scheme.

Amount spent on Advertisement

3858. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the total amount spent by the Ministry of External Affairs on advertisement given to the newspapers direct or through DAVP etc. during the period 1992-93 and 1993-94, language wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): The information is beign collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting at Colombo under the Aegis of UN Advisory Programme for Human Rights

3859. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at four day meet ending Saturday 9th July, 1994 was held at Colombo under the aegis of the UN Advisory Programme for Human Rights, forceful pleas were made to curb population and to that end, amongst other measures to raise the marriage age of girls in Sourth Affrica;

(b) if so, what precise observations and suggestions were made thereon; and

(c) what decisions, if any, have been taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURISHEED): (a) to (c) The Second United Nations Seminar on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 4-8 July, 1994. The Seminar focused on health problems of women and Children in Asia. At the Seminar, forceful appeals were made to curb population and to that end, amongst other measures to raise the marriage age of girls, the draft Action Plan recommended that Governments adopt legislative measures fixing a minimum age for marriage of girls as 18 years. In India, the Child Marriage Restraint Act already provides the minimum age of marriage for females to be 18 years.

The Countries Facing Population Problem

3860. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G7 at its recent annual summit reviewed the outcome of the recent Cairo Population Conference and decided to grant more generous debt relief to the countries facing special difficulties on account of population growth; and

(b) if so, what amount of debt relief is expected by Government of India as one of the most populated countries with a high growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Cairo Conference on Population and Development is to take place only in September 1994 whereas the G7 Summit took place in Jully 1994. The G7, did not therefore comment on the outcome of the Cairo conference. The communique issued at the G7 Summit only stessed the importance of positive outcome of the Cairo Conference on Population and development.

In regard to debt relief, the Summit Communique stated: We encourage the Paris Club to pursue its efforts to improve the debt treatment of the poorest and most indebted countries. Where appropriate we favour a reduction in the stock of debt and an increase in concessionality for those countries facing special difficulties.